THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Setting up of a coach factory

1083. SHRI THOMAS KUTHIRAVATTOM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering to set up another coach factory;

(b) whether it is a fact that there is a large pending request from Kerala to set up a coach factory there; and

(c) if so, the location of setting up of the coach factory?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Does not arise at this stage.

Restriction on concessional passes to class IV staff

1084. SHRI THOMAS KUTHIRAVATTOM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that post retirement passes are restricted in case of class IV staff of Railways;

(b) whether it is also a fact that passes for dependents are disallowed after retirement of its staff;

(c) whether Government propose to follow an uniform policy irrespective of status of employees; and

(d) if so, whether Government also propose to issue passes to retired railway employees on the lines of Air-lines staff?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) No, Sir. Post retirement complimentary passes are issued to all eligible Railway staff in accordance with their entitlement.

(b) Post retirement complimentary passes are admissible only to the family members of retired employee.

(c) and (d) Passes are issued in accordance with the policy laid down in the Railway Servants (Pass) Rules, 1986. There is no proposal to further liberalise it.

Support price for coconut in Kerala

1085. SHRI THOMAS KUTHIRAVATTOM: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are not applying the uniform Yardstick for giving support price to Kerala Farmers especially Coconut growers;

(b) whether Government are aware that the present support price for coconut is too inadequate; and

(c) if so, the measures contemplated to enhance the support price for this commodity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) to (c) Coconut is not covered under the minimum support price policy. However, the copra has been brought under the minimum support price policy since 1989. Based on the recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices, the minimum support price for fair average quality of copra was fixed at Rs. 1500/- per quintal for 1989 season and has been raised to Rs. 1600/- per quintal for 1990 season.

The minimum support price is a guarantee that if prices fall below this level, the Government would

purchase the commodity at declared minimum support price. However, the farmers are free to sell at higher prices in the open market.

Maintenance of Government buildings

1086. SHRI THOMAS KUTHIRAVATTOM: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) which is the nodal Ministry responsible for the maintenance and up keep of Government buildings in New Delhi;

(b) whether the maintenance of these buildings is upto the mark;

(c) whether it is a fact that all corridors and verandas are crowded with delapidated and dismantled furniture/ladders and such like things making movement cumbursome; and

(d) whether Government propose to take any immediate steps to keep the offices neat and tidy?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) The Ministry of Urban Development through the CPWD is responsible for the maintenance of Government buildings. The up keep, however, is with the concerned Ministry/department in occupation.

(b) Maintenance of the buildings is executed by the CPWD depending upon the needs and the budget provision.

(c) and (d) It is not a fact that all corriders in Government buildings are crowded with delapidated and dismantled furniture. However, in certain buildings due to shortage of space certain items are stored in corridors. Efforts are made by the concerned Ministries/Deptts. to keep their premises neat and tidy.

Conversion of Muzaffarpur-Narkatiaganj and Pahaleja-Pipradih M. G. into B. G.

1087. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any decision to convert (i) Muzaffarpur-Narkatiaganj metre gauge railway line, and (ii) Pahaleja-Pipradih -Yadunathpur- Bhavnathpur metre gauge rail line into broad gauge;

(b) whether Government are aware that for development of industries and supply of coal etc., this conversion is essential;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) by when the work is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) No, Sir.

(b) No such requirement for development of industries and movement of coal has come to notice.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Refusal to Dr. Arun Manilal Gandhi to travel by train

1088. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Mahatma Gandhi's grandson Dr. Arun Manilal Gandhi and his family were not allowed to travel by train from Akola to Bombay on the 14th June, 1990, in spite of their having confirmed seats as per the news-item published in the Indian Express of the 20th June, 1990;